

Serial No. 10/642,784  
Amdt. dated April 21, 2005  
Reply to Office action of January 21, 2005

### Remarks

Responsive to the outstanding Office action, the above application has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim what applicant regards as his invention.

Currently amended claim 11 is the only independent claim remaining in the application. As amended, it calls for a lid for mounting on a container with a lip. The lid includes a continuous, annular ring adapted for snapping over the container lid in a sealing relation. A drinking spout includes an elongated slot with an external opening area greater than an internal opening area thereof.

Connors, Jr. et al. (Pub. US 2003/66839) discloses multiple apertures, as distinguished from the slot of applicant's lid. Moreover, the attachment for the Connors lid includes multiple, radially-spaced snap ridges 50 (Fig. 2), which are discontinuous, as opposed to applicant's continuous ring.

Gartner (4,756,440) shows a lid with multiple apertures. The rim of this lid lacks applicant's snap ring and has a totally different arrangement for mounting on the upper rim of a beverage container.

Sherrod (Pub. US 2004/0124170) is distinguishable because it is adapted for mounting on a bottle, utilizes individual holes or apertures for openings, and lacks the snap ring connection of applicant's invention for mounting on a container lip.

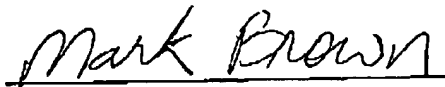
Tupper (2,816,548) lacks the rim-to-lid mounting arrangement of the present invention. Moreover, it lacks the dome-shaped configuration of the top portion of applicant's lid.

Applicant's lid, as presently claimed, provides substantial advantages over the prior art lids. The field for such inventions is relatively crowded, whereby the improved features of applicant's invention are particularly significant. The remaining claims have either been canceled or depend from the remaining independent claim 11.

In view of the foregoing, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

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